



COMMITTEE PROGRAM

No. 7

July - August

1949

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1949 COMMITTEE CONVENTIONS

THE FARMER

Man builds his castles, fair and high,
Wherever river runneth by;
Great cities rise in every land,
Great churches show the builder's hand;
Great arches, monuments and towers,
Fair palaces and pleasing bowers;
Great work is done, be it here or there,
And well man worketh everywhere.
But work or rest, whate'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

—Charles G. Leland

SASKATCHEWAN
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCERS
LIMITED

Regina, Sask.



JULY

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AUGUST

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1949 COMMITTEE CONVENTION

The Committee Convention program was completed during the month of July. Minutes of the Conventions are nearly all in, and copies will be sent to all Secretaries of Committees that were or should have been in attendance, to the Delegates of the sub-district, the Director and District Representative.

A total of 124 Conventions were held taking in all the Committees in 166 sub-districts. Of these, 86 were single sub-district conventions; 34 were double, and in four, three sub-districts participated.

To complete the records, 31 Conventions were held in May, 87 in June and six in July, making 124 in all. Average attendance, 66.

It may be the increase of attendance and interest at Committee Conventions this year lies in the fact that in the six weeks following the Delegates' Annual Meeting the delegates held about 930 meetings. In the same period of time Head Office received and acknowledged the Minutes and Reports which were sent in by Secretaries at 860 points in the province. This is a record and an evidence of the co-operation of Delegates, Chairmen and Secretaries of Wheat Pool Committees, Travelling Superintendent Agents and District Representatives. As many points the meetings were very well attended and a number of secretaries mentioned that they and other key men did not depend entirely upon the Post Card Notices or Posters, but they called

a number of shareholders on the telephone, with satisfactory results.

It is quite apparent from the minutes that on the whole the most effective Conventions were those in which the Committees of one sub-district met alone to consider their organization problems and here the discussion was carried on more freely.

It sometimes happened at a double or triple sub-district convention the meeting was too large and the benefit found in individual sub-district conventions was not so evident.

THE AGENDA

Taken as a whole the Agenda was quite effective in directing the attention of the Committee members to the work in which they take so important a place.

The Agenda is still on the heavy side. It is difficult to decide whether some items should be left out, or some form of re-grouping of the subjects should be attempted in order to cover the whole scope of Committee work without over-loading.

REPORTS

The reports from the Secretaries of the Committees are usually the highlight of the Convention. It is from these reports the Committeemen and others get guidance and ideas which may be taken back home—improved upon or adapted to their own community needs. The reports cover a very wide field of interesting and worthwhile undertakings and space will not permit making reference to all of them.

POOL FLOUR

One secretary told how the Committeemen went out in pairs and secured orders for Pool flour from the farm families at their shipping point. These orders were to be filled by the local Cooperative Store. At another point Committee members went out and took orders which were to be filled at this particular store.

Contacts of this kind not alone promote the sale of Pool flour but some of

the farmers' problems are discussed, which adds both good will and understanding.

Several committees supplied Pool flour from which buns and bread were made and served at the meals on the day of the Convention.

At another convention the District Representative told about the men in their department selling over 7,000 bags of flour in May to some 500 merchants who had been recommended by Wheat Pool Committees.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The broad activities of the Committees included sponsoring a number of Junior Clubs, Farm Radio Forums, School Softball Tournaments, Farmers' Bon-spiels, School and Sub-district Oratory and Essay Contests.

At the recent Baby Beef Club Show and Sale in Prince Albert, 14 of the 19 clubs in the show were originally sponsored by local Wheat Pool Committees. This reflects the interest in Junior Club work in that area and the same interest and support will be found throughout all Pool districts in Saskatchewan.

PICTURE SHOW MEETINGS

A great many picture shows and social evenings were sponsored and at these meetings a speaker was on hand to tell of some part of the Pool policies and discuss price and marketing problems. These picture show meetings are quite popular and many committees state that this is the most effective meeting of the year as a large number of people are present and secure facts about the Pool and the Co-operative Movement. During the past year 712 of these meetings have been held.

RALLIES AND PICNICS

A well organized Picnic, Rally or Social Evening is always popular because there are many young people

around and each gathering in itself is an example of Co-operation. It is understood as such and taken for granted but those who sponsor and organize such gatherings are always given a pat-on-the back.

Quite a few secretaries mentioned they had organized large community gatherings and the proceeds from the evening program had been turned over to the Community Hall fund or to some other worthy community project.

The Committees are much too modest when telling about these local gatherings.

CO-OP SCHOOLS AND AMATEUR HOURS

It has been said by outside observers that there is no better job being done in Canada or U.S.A. than we are doing right here in Saskatchewan. Wheat Pool Committees, Delegates, Teachers and many others have co-operated to organize and sponsor these One Day Co-operative Schools (sometimes called Citizenship Days). Secretaries reported on these schools and Amateur Hour Programs and how they financed one or more students to the One Week Co-op School at Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current or Qu'Appelle Valley Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle. The local committee at some points where the Convention was being held arranged to have a report from the local students who had attended one or other of the schools held last year. This additional interest in the student means much to the boy or girl and to many others.

N.B. J.W.G.

ESSAY AND ORATORY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is usually conducted following the One Day Co-op Schools and records show that over 2000 essays were submitted. In many instances local committees sponsored an Essay or Oratory Contest in which all the committees in the sub-district took an active part in organizing.

SCHOOL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Here again community interest is

gathered behind the local school teams or in sub-district play-offs. One sub-district reported they had successfully carried on a School Softball Tournament for 14 years. One of the committeemen was asked if it was much work? "Yes, but we can't quit as the kids want us to keep on." This lesson in "Team Work" will not be lost in future years and may have a direct bearing on deliveries to Pool Elevators.

POOL AGENT

The Pool Agent is to the committees "one of the family." An agent who had been introduced as "the best Agent we ever had" replied, "If that is so, it is because I have a Committee who are always working and I try to keep them informed as to how things are going and what is new in the way of regulations and such."

This is a fine compliment to both the Committee and the Agent, "The Committee is always working" and "The Agent talks things over with us." This agent went ahead then and gave an interesting report on his handling, grading, ~~ca~~ shipped, livestock weighed and shipped, new members signed up, and Western Producer subscriptions. He then mentioned when he was planning to take his holidays so the growers would know in case they wanted to deliver more grain to their own elevator before he left.

TEST PLOTS

The one or two Test Plot supervisors in each sub-district were in attendance at a number of Committee Conventions and gave the committeemen an opportunity to hear at first hand just how important and valuable this Test Plot work is to the farmers in Saskatchewan. One committeeman was heard to remark, "That boy sure knows what he is doing and why he is doing it. Hope he gets University and comes back here to farm, we need more like him."

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There are 1175 Wheat Pool Commit-

tees in the province and most . the Sec-
retaries reported the holding of four or
more Committee meetings during the
year, which runs from December 1st to
November 30th of the following year.

COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

The number of Committees who read
part or all of the Committee programs at
their Committee meetings, seem to be on
the increase and a number of Commit-
tees have now written in asking that
the entire Committee be added to the
mailing list along with the names of the
Chairman and Secretary. This is done
only at the request of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

At least 150 committees have checked
the list of Shareholders as proposed in
Committee Program No. 4. Others plan
to do so and report any "Change of
Address" to head office.

NEW MEMBERS

At one point 37 non-pool farmers de-
livered grain to the Pool Elevator. A
Committeeman, along with the Delegate
for the sub-district made a complete can-
vas of the 37 non-shareholders and here
is the result reported.

- 8 signed application forms.
- 8 agreed to see the Pool agent about
joining.
- 5 away from home.
- 4 refused to sign.
- 12 non-resident of the district.

LIVESTOCK

At a number of Conventions a repre-
sentative of the Livestock Pool was pre-
sent and outlined the advantage of de-
livering and marketing livestock through
their own Co-operative Yards and
Agencies.

The Wheat Pool owns Yards at Re-
gina, Yorkton, Swift Current and also
have Agencies at the Livestock Yards in
Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw.
Canadian Livestock Co-operative (West-

ern) Ltd., at St. Boniface is owned and operated jointly with producers' co-operatives in Manitoba and Alberta.

Farmers who have livestock to market should use these facilities to assure themselves of getting what their animals are worth.

TRAVELLING SUPERINTENDENTS

The Travelling Superintendents concerned attended the Committee Conventions and led a discussion on delivery and handling problems. A number of questions were asked and information exchanged. This item on the Agenda dealing with Saskatchewan Pool Elevators is an important one as **Grower Ownership and Control** are coupled to deliveries to our own elevator.

THE DELEGATE AND DIRECTOR

A very important person at these meetings is the Delegate, who is responsible for the organization work within his sub-district (Bylaw No. 2, Page 26, in Handbook No. 1). He endeavours to tie together the many Committee activities in his sub-district and measure for himself their strength and weakness. It is through these Committees that he has to reach many of the Shareholders in his sub-district. The Committees also look for leadership as the team work of Delegates and Committees or the lack of team work will soon show up and every branch of the organization will be affected one way or another.

The Delegates and Committees exchange guidance and inspiration.

The Director carries a heavy load at each Convention as the Committeemen are anxious to get the fullest information possible and secure at first hand particulars regarding conditions and policies which affect the success of their own organization. The welfare of the people is the important thing. That's why they built the Wheat Pool. That's why they secured the Wheat Board.

INFLUENCES AT WORK

Problems at Home

The world is twisting and buckling as

the people struggle for food and other necessities of life—Our own restlessness may not be so clear but the urges are here just the same—

For instance, the recommendations that the Wheat Board be the sole marketing agency for coarse grains comes from the very necessity for the producers to receive a fair price and for the users of coarse grains to have a steady supply available at a reasonable price.

You cannot provide any degree of security for any length of time when grain is marketed through speculative markets.

The three Western Provincial Governments and the Federal Government now understand this and on August 1st, 1949 the Canadian Wheat Board will handle oats and barley.

The Western Producer and other papers will shortly carry some details of the procedure to be followed.

C.F.A.

In the Canadian Federation of Agriculture you have representatives from all the provincial farm organizations sitting down and discussing and planning for the welfare of farm producers all across Canada. The decisions and recommendations made at these important meetings are the result of years of experience of the majority of farm families in our country.

The needs of the Home, the needs of Canada, and the care of the soil are all viewed by men and women who do honor to this most important industry.

Wheat Agreement

Great Britain's need for "dollars" is crowding all other news off the front pages today. Big Shots around the world are in a "huddle" behind closed doors. Why? Because Great Britain for years has been the leader and champion of some of our modern methods of doing business. War left her exhausted and the amassed savings of several centuries were used to finance the war.

Since the end of the war much of the wheat which was shipped to Great Britain from Canada was paid for by the

Governments of Canada and the United States.

The Wheat Agreement, signed by Great Britain and Canada, established the quantities and the price basis. Wheat producers and the Canadian public in general benefitted by this agreement.

International Agreements

World trade, which is mainly the exchange of raw materials for manufactured goods, is in a bad way. The "have-not" peoples of the world will be very restless if food is not forthcoming.

Appraising the world food situation it was generally agreed that the world's food supplies were far below needs and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization saw nothing in the next three years to indicate that food production would be above the pre-war average. Even at that time two-thirds of the world's population was underfed and world population was increasing from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 each year, and there are no new areas to bring into cultivation.

There are now 57 nations members of F.A.O. It may be noted that of the nations which signed the International Wheat Agreement, 34 are members of F.A.O.

The International Wheat Agreement goes into force on August 1st. (Please see Committee Program No. 6 "Facts about the new International Wheat Agreement.")

The I.F.A.P.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers brings the representatives from farm organizations together in an international body. Here the world problems which face the primary producer are discussed.

These men who gathered at Guelph, Ontario, early in June for their third Annual meeting, were all from the farms of the countries they represented. Such gatherings bring about understanding and if the heart is right—understanding means "working together."

These men are "working together" in their homeland and now want to work together for the common good of MAN.

RESOLUTIONS

At most Conventions resolutions are presented, discussed and perhaps passed. All resolutions sent in from Committee Conventions are presented to the Board of Directors and to the departments concerned. These resolutions are also made available to the Resolutions Committee at the time of the Annual Meeting of Delegates. This year the majority of resolutions had to do with such matters as:

Wheat Board and Coarse Grains.

Quota System of Deliveries.

Producers and Consumers Advisory Committee to the Wheat Board.

Wheat Board and Farm Storage.

Car Allotment and Farmers' right to deliver to his own elevator.

Distribution of Earnings of Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Limited.

Revolving Deductions.

Elevator Facilities.

Appointment of a Board of Livestock Commissioners with Producer Representation.

Committee Programs and Publicity.

INCLUSION

The Secretary of one Committee who was a Test Plot Supervisor 12 years ago and saw five years' service in R.C.A.F., remarked as he folded up his report "This don't seem a very long report as we only held five Committee meetings but when we are talking to our neighbors we feel proud of what has been accomplished since our dads built the Wheat Pool. There is much to do yet, but we have a good foundation upon which to build."



SHORTS AND MIDDLING

Pump-Priming

Pump-priming advocates are suggesting that the Federal Government should plan to spend \$10,000,000,000 more than it takes in as a means of stimulating business. The President isn't yet sold on going back to big-scale borrowing. (U.S. News and World Report—July 1, 1949)

Internal Trade

It has been said that part of the reason

for American prosperity and progress is that it was the largest area of free trade in the world. China will now become a huge area of free trade, with a united government and the abolition of internal customs. What this will mean is shown in this item:

Five thousand bolts of cloth have been sent from Tientsin to Mukden to exchange for Manchurian grain. This marks the beginning of a regular exchange of commodities between Manchuria and North China through an agreement reached between the producers and consumers co-operative in Tientsin and the general co-operative in Manchuria.

Ox Power

Before it was partitioned, India contained about 208,000,000 head of cattle, nearly one-third of the world's cattle numbers, and yet it is short of both milk and oxen. Feed scarcity is the chief cause of shortage. Eighty percent of the rural population in that country depend upon oxen or buffalo for draft power.

Cost of Field Operations

The cost of various field operations has been calculated for the years 1943-1946 on the Dominion experimental stations at Melfort, Indian Head and Brandon, and on their illustration stations. The average cost of operation per acre as calculated on these stations is shown below:

| Operation | Indian Head Cost per acre | Melfort Cost per acre | Brandon Cost per acre |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ploughing | 1.72 | 1.15 | 1.43 |
| One-waying | .62 | .62 | .84 |
| Cultivating | .46 | .55 | .54 |
| Disking | .40 | .51 | .61 |
| Harrowing | .31 | .26 | .27 |
| Drilling | .50 | .57 | .60 |
| Packing | .39 | .30 | .36 |
| Binding | .75 | .84 | 1.16 |
| Stooking | .49 | | .52 |
| Threshing | | | 2.88 |
| Swathing | .28 | .50 | .60 |
| Combining | 1.39 | 2.25 | 2.35 |
| Mowing | .91 | .77 | .95 |
| Raking | .60 | .31 | .45 |
| Stacking | 1.85 | | 1.68 |

Cost of operating machinery was based on the annual use and estimated life of the machine and to this was added a charge for power, fuel, oil, grease, depreciation, repairs and housing, and manual labor.